

Nutrition and Forestry that provides risk management and income assistance for agriculture producers, the Chairman of the Senate Committee on the Budget may increase the allocation of budget authority and outlays to that Committee by an amount that does not exceed—

(1) \$6,500,000,000 in budget authority and in outlays for fiscal year 2000;

(2) \$36,000,000,000 in budget authority and \$35,165,000,000 in outlays for the period of fiscal years 2000 through 2004; and

(3) \$36,000,000,000 in budget authority and in outlays for the period of fiscal years 2000 through 2009.

Mr. DOMENICI. I thank the Senator.

I say to Senator KENNEDY, before I use a couple minutes and yield for your couple minutes, I ask if Senator ENZI, who has been waiting patiently and has an amendment to be cleared right quick, if he could comment on it. We could adopt it, and then we will, just before our 11:50 time to offer all the amendments, be completed.

Mr. ENZI addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming is recognized.

Will the Senator from Wyoming permit the Chair to appoint conferees on the supplemental?

Mr. ENZI. The Senator will.

EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1999

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to the order of March 18, 1999, the Senate having received H.R. 1141, the House companion bill to S. 544, the provisions of the unanimous consent agreement are executed.

The provisions of the unanimous consent agreement are as follows:

Ordered, That when the Senate receives the House companion bill to S. 544, a bill making emergency supplemental appropriations and rescissions for recovery from natural disasters, and foreign assistance, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes, the Chair automatically strike all after the enacting clause; that the text of S. 544 as amended be inserted; that the House bill be advanced to third reading; and that the bill be passed, all without intervening action or debate.

Ordered further, That the Senate insist on its amendment, request a conference with the House, and that the Chair be authorized to appoint conferees on the part of the Senate.

Ordered further, That the bill, S. 544, remain at the desk.

The bill (H.R. 1141), as amended, was passed.

Pursuant to the order, the Chair appointed: Mr. STEVENS, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. BOND, Mr. GORTON, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. BURNS, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. GREGG, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. CRAIG, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. KYL, Mr. BYRD, Mr. INOUE, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. HARKIN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. REID, Mr. KOHL, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. DORGAN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN and Mr. DURBIN conferees on the part of the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair thanks the Senator from Wyoming.

The Senator is recognized.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2000

The Senate continued with the consideration of the concurrent resolution.

AMENDMENT NO. 154

(Purpose: Expressing the Sense of the Senate that agricultural risk management programs should include livestock producers)

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to lay the pending amendment aside to call up amendment No. 154.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Wyoming [Mr. ENZI] for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. THOMAS and Mr. CONRAD proposes an amendment numbered 154.

Mr. ENZI. I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert:

SEC. . SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT AGRICULTURAL RISK MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS SHOULD BENEFIT LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Senate finds that—

(1) extremes in weather-related and natural conditions have a profound impact on the economic viability of producers;

(2) these extremes, such as drought, excessive rain and snow, flood, wind, insect infestation are certainly beyond the control of livestock producers;

(3) these extremes do not impact livestock producers within a state, region or the nation in the same manner or during the same time frame or for the same duration of time;

(4) the livestock producers have few effective risk management tools at their disposal to adequately manage the short- and long-term impacts of weather-related or natural disaster situations; and

(5) ad hoc natural disaster assistance programs, while providing some relief, are not sufficient to meet livestock producers' needs for rational risk management planning.

(b) It is the sense of the Senate that any consideration of reform of federal crop insurance and risk management programs should include the needs of livestock producers.

Mr. ENZI. I also ask unanimous consent that Senator CONRAD be added as a cosponsor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. ENZI. This amendment, offered by myself, Senator GRASSLEY, Senator THOMAS, and now Senator CONRAD, is a sense of the Senate that resolves that any consideration of reform of Federal crop insurance and risk management programs should include the needs of livestock producers as well.

The livestock industry has very few risk management tools available to

manage the short- and long-term impacts of weather-related and natural disaster situations. They do not have an insurance program to help guard against losses. In fact, livestock producers are prohibited by law from participating in USDA's Crop Insurance Program. That prohibition must be removed.

We must devote our resources to finding a rational approach to risk management that will eliminate the need for ranchers and farmers to ask Congress each year for disaster assistance. Any program offered to the agricultural producers should cover them in the event of any crop or livestock losses due to excessive rain and snow, wind, drought, and even insect infestation. We need a program that is actuarially sound.

The livestock industry is comprised of smart, hardworking businessmen who constantly operate at the whims of Mother Nature. They are not looking for a Government handout. They simply want to be given the opportunity to better manage the risks they face in trying to get their cattle and sheep to market. We promised our ranchers help, but we have not delivered. This amendment is a good first step.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

I yield back any time that I have.

Mr. CONRAD addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, very briefly, let me just say I hope our colleagues will support the amendment which my colleague from Wyoming has offered, along with a number of others of us who are very concerned about what has happened in the livestock industry.

In American agriculture now, we face the lowest prices in 52 years. We have been through an absolute price collapse in many sectors of the livestock industry. In the hog industry alone, prices have dropped to 8.5 cents a pound.

Mr. President, it takes 40 cents a pound to break even in the livestock industry. And 8.5 cents a pound is absolutely ridiculous. We anticipate losing as many as three-quarters of the hog producers in our State if something is not done.

This amendment, offered by Senator ENZI, cosponsored by others of us, we think is one way to help livestock producers manage risk through a program of risk management. I hope very much our colleagues will support it.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I rise in support of the Enzi, Grassley, Thomas, Conrad amendment. Livestock producers have few viable risk management tools available to deal with drought, excessive rain and snow, flood, or disease. Dismal profits for cattlemen and the collapse of hog market in the Fall of 1998 are two of the